

# Gimme Shelter

## News from the Loudoun County Animal Shelter

Loudoun County Department of  
Animal Care & Control

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## Free Microchip Clinic



Animal Care & Control is hosting a free pet microchip clinic on **Saturday, March 10, at the Sterling Community Center, from 10am- 1pm.**

The March 10 microchip clinic is free and open to any Loudoun County resident or Loudoun County Government employee.

Advance registration is not required—microchipping will be done on a first come, first served basis.

Dogs must be leashed and cats must be in carriers.

Please bring proof of current rabies vaccination for all pets 4 months of age or older.

Microchipping is a safe, permanent way of identifying your pet should they ever be found by Animal Control or a veterinary office.

The microchip itself is about the size of a grain of rice. It is implanted under the skin in the area around the shoulders through a needle. The procedure is no more invasive than a vaccination shot, and requires no anesthesia or recovery time.

Once it is implanted, the number on the chip can be read by a scanner (similar to a bar code scanner). The number can then be traced back to the owner so that they can be reunited with their pet.

Make sure that your pets can safely find their way home - have them microchipped!

For more information on the free pet microchip clinic, please call the Animal Shelter at 703-777-0406 or email [animals@loudoun.gov](mailto:animals@loudoun.gov). Details and directions can also be found at [www.loudoun.gov/animals](http://www.loudoun.gov/animals) by clicking on the "Events" button on the left hand side.

## My Dog Doesn't Drive...

### ...but he still needs a license!

The Commonwealth of Virginia requires Loudoun County to require all dogs four (4) months of age and older to be licensed annually. Dog licenses go on sale in November of each year and must be purchased by January 31.

New county residents and new dog owners may purchase licenses throughout the year. All licenses expire on December 31 of each year regardless of when they were purchased.

Dog licenses cost \$5.00 for neutered males/spayed females and \$10.00 for intact males/females. You must provide

proof of current rabies vaccination in order to obtain a license. All dogs and cats over four months old must have a current rabies vaccination. Dogs must have their license tags securely attached to a collar and worn whenever the dog is off of the owner's property.

Dog licenses serve as a form of identification and help Animal Control to reunite lost dogs with their owners.

Dog licenses can be purchased at the Animal Shelter, the Treasurer's Offices in Leesburg and Sterling, or by mail. Visit [www.loudoun.gov/animals](http://www.loudoun.gov/animals) for more information or to print an application.

### And the Winner is...

We are proud to announce that we have received EIGHT nominations for the 2006 Council of Government's Animal Services Awards:

- **Adoption Award**—Advanced Animal Care & Training Coordinator Jenny Swiggart
- **Animal Care Award**—Loudoun County Animal Care Staff
- **Animal Rescue of 2006 (Domestic)** - Animal Control Officer Aaron Wheatley
- **Animal Rescue of 2006 (Wildlife)** - Animal Control Officers Virginia Girolami & Angela Chan
- **Community Partnership Award**—2 nominees—The Holiday Pet Pantry Program and Director Tom Koenig
- **Humane Education Award**—PR Coordinator Laura Danis & Volunteer Coordinator Amy Seymour
- **Volunteer Award**—Kathy Trzeciak

Congratulations to all the nominees! Winners will be announced at an awards ceremony on Friday, March 2. Good luck everyone!

### Did you know...

**Animal Care & Control Staff process nearly 15,000 dog licenses annually!**

# Do It For Love

February 27 is Spay Day USA, and this year's theme is "Do It For Love!" Spay Day is a national effort to encourage pet owners to have their companion animals spayed or neutered.

Spaying/neutering is one of the most important things that you can do to show your pet that you care. First and foremost, spaying/neutering helps to reduce pet overpopulation. Animal Shelters across the country are inundated with millions of homeless animals every year, and there just aren't enough homes for them all. The best way to stop the influx of animals into shelters is to prevent our pets from having litters.

Spaying/neutering is also good for your pet's health, as it makes him or her less susceptible to certain tumors and cancers. Dogs that have been altered live an average of 1-3 years longer than their unaltered counterparts. And the news is even better for our feline friends, who average 3-5 years additional life expectancy.

Spaying/neutering also decreases many undesirable behaviors, helping to make your pet a better companion. Neutering can decrease aggression, and it is important to note that the majority of dog bites are from unaltered males. Neutering also decreases your dog's likelihood

of urine marking and your cat's tendency to spray. Males and females are both much less likely to roam, decreasing their chances of becoming lost or injured.

All dogs and cats adopted from the Loudoun County Animal Shelter are spayed or neutered before they go to their new homes. Adopting your pet from the Shelter can be a very cost-effective way of ensuring that your pet will be spayed or neutered, as the surgery is included in your adoption fee.

So if you have a pet, make sure that he or she is spayed or neutered.

**Do it for love!**



## Employee of the Month

**Bree Gilliam** is February's Employee of the Month! Bree has worked for the Department as a Customer Service Representative/Dispatcher since May 2006.

Bree has shown excellent and unselfish work in her time with the Department. Her efforts to develop a new filing system that is more organized and provides easier access in finding animal files and information are outstanding. Her positive attitude and willingness to

work with and support her coworkers is highly commendable. Her efforts and attitude have a direct and positive impact on the entire operation and demonstrate her continued dedication and commitment toward assisting the Department in accomplishing its mission and goals.

**Thank you Bree for all you do!**

***Congratulations Bree!***



## What We're Up To...

### LCACC to Host National Seminar

Loudoun County has been chosen to host one of Petfinder.com's **Adoption Options** Workshops. Adoption Options takes nationally known speakers around the country to discuss some of the newest and most innovative ideas in animal adoptions.

Thanks to support from the Petco Foundation, shelters and rescue groups can attend the workshop for a very small cost. And the host Shelter can send staff for free!

Loudoun County is one of only 20 Adoption Options locations in 2007. Thanks Petfinder!

### Bunnies Find Homes

Thank you to everyone who came to the Home for a Bunny Open House on February 17. **Four** rabbits found new homes at the event!

And, a big thank you to Rabbit Wise for joining us and for helping our rabbit adopters learn about their new pets.

There are lots of rabbits and small animals still available for adoption. See them online at [www.loudoun.gov/animals](http://www.loudoun.gov/animals).



***Snowball & Coconut are still looking for a new home!***